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SUBJ: PRE-CAMPAIGN ELECTION PICTURE IN DINH TUONG

1. SUMMARY -- EVE OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTION CAMPAIGN KICKOFF IN POPULOUS DINH TUONG PROVINCE FINDS RURAL POPULATION APPARENTLY PERPLEXED AND FEARFUL; INTELLECTUALS AND QUASI-INTELLECTUALS SARDONIC AND CYNICAL: PROVINCE OFFICIALS WORKING FEVERISHLY TO GET OUT THE VOTE: VC SPREADING RUMORS OF VIOLENCE AND TERROR ON SEPT 11, WHICH THEY HAVE PROCLAIMED "ANTI-ELECTION DAY"; CANDIDATES PREPARING THEIR CAMPAIGN SPEECHES:

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AND INCREASING INTEREST AMONG PEOPLE IN MORE SECURE AREAS WHO, THOUGH SKEPTICAL ABOUT IMMEDIATE BENEFITS OF ELECTION, VIEW PROCEEDINGS WITH CAUTIOUS HOPE.

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2. CANDIDATES -- THREE LISTS ARE COMPETING FOR TWO DINH TUONG ASSEMBLY SEATS. LEADING PROSPECT IS TRIEU VAN TUC (LIST IIII). TUC, 55, IS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN PROVINCE COUNCIL AND HAS BEEN LONG ACTIVE IN PROVINCE LABOR (CVT) AFFAIRS. HE IS WELL KNOWN AND APPARENTLY ADMIRED FOR HIS ACTIVITY ON BEHALF WORKING PEOPLE AND POOR. ALSO LIKELY



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WINNER IS LIST I, HEADED BY ARVN CAPTAIN AND MEDICAL DOCTOR LE THIEN DIEN. DIEN, 34, IS ROMAN CATHOLIC AND WILL ALSO BENEFIT FROM FACT HQ ARVN 7TH DIVISION, NUMEROUS OTHER ARVN UNITS LOCATED IN OR NEAR MY THO. LIST II, LED BY PHAM VAN NHAC, 34, WILL REPORTEDLY APPEAL TO SOUTHER REGIONALISM. NHAC, WHO TEACHER IN SAIGON, IS NOT WELL KNOWN IN DINH TUON.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE PREPARATIONS AND SECURITY --

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ENTIRE PROVINCE OFFICIAL MACHINERY GEARED SINGLE-MINDEDLY TO ELECTION PREPARATIONS. 107,531 VOTERS HAVE REGISTERED, 15PERCENT INCREASE OVER 1965. PROVINCE CHIEF HOPES TO BETTER LAST YEAR'S TURN-OUT OF 72PERCENT.

4. VC INCREASINGLY STRESSING TERROR AND VIOLENCE TO DISCOURAGE VOTER PARTICIPATION. VC HAVE DELCARED ELECTION DAY SEPT 11 "ANTI-ELECTION DAY". VC CONVOKING MEETINGS IN RURAL AREAS AT WHICH PEOPLE TOLD POLLING PLACES WILL BE MORTARED. MEANWHILE, INSTRUCTIONS REPORTEDLY ISSUED VC UNITS TO CONFISCATE VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS, INTERDICT ROADS AND CANALS LEADING TO POLLING PLACES, ETC.

5. PROVINCE OFFICIALS ESTIMATE APPROXIMATELY HALF OF DINH TUONG'S POPULATION OF 600,000 LIVE IN AREAS ACCESSIBLE TO THE DESIGNATED 100 POLLING PLACES. MACV SECTOR ADVISOR ESTIMATES THESE POLLING PLACES CAN BE SECURED BUT POINTS OUT THAT IN SOME AREAS VC CAN HARASS ROADS AND CANALS LEADING TO POLLING PLACES, THUS

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REDUCING VOTER TURNOUT.

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6. ATMOSPHERE -- SEVERAL VIETNAMESE SOURCES DESCRIBED RURAL POPULATION OF DINH TUONG AS PERPLEXED AND FEARFUL--PERPLEXED AT BENEFIT ELECTION CAN BRING TO THEIR CIRCUMSCRIBED LIVES AND FEARFUL AT WHAT VC WILL DO TO THEM IF

THEY GO TO VOTE AND WHAT GVN WILL DO IF THEY DO NOT. THERE IS MUCH CYNICISM AMONG INTELLECTUALS AND QUASI-INTELLECTUALS, BUT OBSERVERS REPORT PEOPLE IN RELATIVELY SECURE AREAS (LARGELY MY THO AND DISTRICT CAPITALS), AS WELL AS THE YOUTH OF VOTING AGE, ARE SHOWING INCREASING INTEREST IN WHAT HAS NOW BEOMCE A MUCH-DISCUSSED SUBJECT. LODGE



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1. THE FOLLOWING MAY BE USEFUL TO DEPARTMENT AS DOCUMEN. FOR BACKGROUND BRIEFING OF AMERICAN PRESS ON VC POSITION AS REGARDS SEPTEMBER 11 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. THE DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO WISH TO CIRCULARIZE THIS FOR USE OF OTHER POSTS IN BRIEFING FOREIGN PRESS AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. WE HAVE BEEN DRAWING UPON THIS INFORMATION IN OUR DISCUSSIONS OF ELECTIONS WITH SELECTED MEMBERS OF FOREIGN PRESS.

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2. GENERAL

A. REPORTS FROM THROUGHOUT SOUTH VIET-NAM UNIFORMLY INDICATE WELL-ADVANCED PLANS BY VIET CONG TO DISRUPT DEPTEMBER

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. AT THIS POINT, MANY REPORTS CONCERN PLANS FOR FUTURE ACTIONS RATHER THAN ACTUAL INSTANCES OF VC INTIMIDATION OR TERRORISM. HOWEVER, IT IS QUITE CLEAR FROM EMERGING PATTERN OF REPORTS THAT SPECIFIC AND DETAILED PLANS ARE IN EXISTENCE TO DISRUPT ELECTIONS AND THAT INSTRUCTIONS TO ACCOMPLISH THIS DISRUPTION HAVE BEEN DISSEMINATED NATION WIDE.

(1)

B. IT SEEMS CLEAR ALSO, FROM EXTENT AND VEHEMENCE OF CAMPAIGN THAT COMMUNISTS, BOTH VIET CONG AND HANOI, REGARD COMING ELECTIONS AS MAJOR POLITICAL CHALLENGE. THIS IS IN CONTRAST TO LAST YEAR'S PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON WHICH NEITHER VIET CONG NOR HANOI TOOK POSITION, WHICH WERE NOT SUBJECT TO CONCERTED CAMPAIGN OF PROPAGANDA, HARASSMENT AND TERROR, AND WHICH WERE DISTURBED BY ONLY FEW SCATTERED INCIDENTS OF VIET CONG ACTIVITY. VIET CONG POSITION, IN BOTH EXTERNAL PROPAGANDA AND INTERNAL PARTY DOCUMENTS IS THAT



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SUCCESS OF THEIR STRUGGLE IS ASSURED PRIMARILY BY POLITICAL WEAKNESS AND EVENTUAL COLLAPSE OF THE GVN. BY LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR FUTURE GVN WITH DEMONSTRATED POPULAR BASE, FORTHCOMING NATIONAL ELECTIONS SERIOUSLY THREATEN THIS VIET CONG EXPECTATION AND STRATEGY.

C. IN GENERAL, VC TACTICS WILL CONSIST OF INTENSIVE PROPAGANDA AND POSSIBLY DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE PRE-ELECTORAL PERIOD. MEETINGS ARE ALREADY BEING HELD IN MANY VILLAGES, WITH SUBJECT MATTER A COMBINATION OF "INSTRUCTION" AND INTIMIDATION ADDRESSED TO POTENTIAL VOTERS. LEAFLETS ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED. "LIBERATION RADIO" AND RADIO HANOI ARE DEVOTING MAJOR PORTION OF AIR TIME TO ANTI-ELECTION PROPAGANDA. IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING AND ON ELECTION DAY, TACTICS WILL PROBABLY SHIFT TO TERRORIST AND MILITARY ATTACKS ON CANDIDATES, ELECTORAL OFFICIALS, POLLING PLACES, AND LINES OF COMMUNICATION LEADING TO THEM.

D. IN I CORPS, VIET CONG WILL PROBABLY ENCOURAGE STAND OF ANTI-GVN BUDDHIST EXTREMIST GROUPS TO BOYCOTT THE ELECTIONS AND WILL INITIATE TERRORIST AND MILITARY ATTACKS ON CANDIDATES

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AND POLLING PLACES JUST BEFORE ELECTION DAY. AN EXTENSIVE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN HAS ALREADY BEGUN UTILIZING WHISPERING CAMPAIGNS AND LEAFLETS.

E. IN II CORPS, VC ARE CONCENTRATING ON PROPAGANDIZING AND INTIMIDATING THE MONTAGNARDS WHILE PLAYING UPON RELIGIOUS PREJUDICES AMONG ETHNIC VIETNAMESE.

F. IN III AND IV CORPS AREAS VC CAMPAIGN DOES NOT APPEAR AT THIS POINT TO BE GEARED TO ANY PARTICULAR GROUP OR AREA BUT IS AS WIDESPREAD AS VC RESOURCES PERMIT.

G. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY DIRECT COOPERATION BETWEEN BUDDHIST EXTREMIST ELEMENTS AND THE VIET CONG IN THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, IT CAN BE EXPECTED THAT VC WILL ATTEMPT TO PENETRATE OR AT LEAST GIVE DISCREET SUPPORT TO ANY ATTEMPTS BY BUDDHISTS OR OTHERS TO ORGANIZE DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST ELECTIONS OR RE-KINDLE THE "STRUGGLE MOVEMENT", PARTICULARLY IN I CORPS.



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3. VIET CONG AND HANOI RADIO PROPAGANDA.

A. VIET CONG AND HANOI HAVE MADE IT PLAIN THAT THEIR POLICY TOWARDS THE UPCOMING GA ELECTIONS WILL BE TO BOYCOTT, "SMASH", AND "CRUSH" THESE ELECTIONS WHICH HANOI HAS TERMED PART OF U.S. "WAR EXPANSION STRATEGY". VC CAMPAIGN AGAINST ELECTIONS BEGAN AND QUICKLY FADED OUT IN MID-APRIL WITH FEW CURSORY BROADCASTS, PICKED UP AGAIN IN JUNE, WENT INTO FULL SWING WITH JULY 25 BROADCAST OF BOYCOTT STATEMENT BY VIET CONG NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT CENTRAL COMMITTEE PRESIDIUM. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE FIRST REFERENCE TO BOYCOTT OF ELECTIONS APPEARED IN JUNE 16 HANOI RADIO BROADCAST BEAMED TO SOUTH VIET-NAM, AND THUS GIVEN THE LINE, VC SUBSEQUENTLY BEGAN THEIR ANTI-ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN EARNEST. IN FIRST HALF OF AUGUST THERE WERE TEN RADIO BROADCASTS OR TRANSMISSIONS FROM VC AND HANOI RADIOS AND IN NEARLY ALL BOYCOTT WAS URGED AS WELL AS CALL FOR VIOLENT OVERTHROW OF GVN.

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B. AS WOULD BE EXPECTED VARIOUS SO-CALLED POLITICAL PARTIES AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS AFFILIATED WITH "FRONT" HAVE ADDED TO CHORUS DENOUNCING THIS "STINKING HOAX" I.E. ELECTIONS. IN ONE SUCH BROADCAST, HEAD OF VC/FRONT-AFFILIATED RADICAL SOCIALIST PARTY URGED ALL SOUTHERN INTELLECTUALS TO RESPOND TO "SACRED CALL TO SAVE THE COUNTRY MADE (JULY 17) BY PRESIDENT HO - THE BELOVED LEADER OF ALL OF OUR PEOPLE ...." AS WELL AS RUGING BOYCOTT AND SMASHING OF "BOGUS ELECTION".

C. HANOI HAS ALREADY SAID THAT LISTS CONTAINING MILLIONS OF REGISTERED VOTERS "SIMPLY INVENTED" BY GVN SINCE, ACCORDING

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TO HANOI/VC PROPAGANDA, TEN MILLION HAVE BEEN "LIBERATED" BY VC AND OF REMAINDER IN "TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED AREAS" OF SOUTH VIET-NAM "MAJORITY ARE COMMUNISTS AND NEUTRALISTS".

D. TWO PERTINENT PASSAGES REPEATED BELOW OF VIET CONG RADIO BROADCAST OF 25 JULY 1966 (QUOTING STATEMENT OF NLF PRESIDIUM) ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF CONTINUING COMMUNIST ANTI-ELECTION BROADCASTS:

1) "THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS AND THEIR HENCHMEN ARE PLAYING CUNNING, DECEITFUL TRICKS [illegible] AS DEMOCRATIC CONSTRUCTION, SOCIAL REVOLUTION, ECONOMY [illegible] RILIZATION, AND SO FORTH. THEY HAVE DECIDED TO ORGA[illegible]E SO-CALLED ELECTIONS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY ON [illegible] SEPTEMBER. BY MEANS OF THIS DECEITFUL TRICK, THE DIRTY VIETNAMESE TRAITORS THIEU AND KY, WHO LEAD THE SAIGON PUPPET AUTHORITIES, ARE STRIVING, IN OBEDIENCE TO THEIR U.S. MASTERS' ORDERS, TO DAB DEMOCRATIC PAINT ON THEIR ROTTEN, TREACHEROUS REGIME IN ORDER TO CHEAT

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PUBLIC OPINION AT HOME AND ABROAD. THE NFLSV CENTRAL COMMITTEE PRESIDIUM SOLEMNLY DECLARES: THE SO-CALLED CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, OR WHATEVER TYPE OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS THAT MAY BE STAGED BY THE UNITED STATES AND ITS PUPPETS, ARE POLITICAL DECEITFUL TRICKS AND BUFFOONERIES OF FALSE DEMOCRACY, FALSE FREEDOM, AND FALSE INDEPENDENCE."

2) "THE NFLSV CENTRAL COMMITTEE PRESIDIUM CALLS ON ALL OUR COMPATRIOTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN CITIES AND AREAS STILL CONTROLLED TEMPORARILY BY THE ENEMY, TO THOROUGHLY BOYCOTT THE ELECTION TRICK OF THE UNITED STATES AND THIEU-KY HENCHMEN CLIQUE, TO SMASH THIS DECEITFUL BUFFOONERY, TO STRENGHTEN THEIR SOLIDARITY, AND TO FIRMLY CARRY ON THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE U.S. AGGRESSORS AND THE THIEU-KY TREACHEROUS CLIQUE IN ORDER TO WIN BACK NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND ALL THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE FOR LIVELIHOOD AND DEMOCRACY."

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E. MOST RECENT BROADCAST BY VIET CONG ("LIBERATION") RADIO QUOTES 15 AUGUST COMMUNIQUE BY "MILITARY COMMAND OF LIBERATION ARMED FORCES IN SAIGON/GIA DINH AREA." KEY PASSAGE FROM THIS COMMUNIQUE READS: "THE SO-CALLED CANDIDATES MUST WITHDRAW THEIR NAMES IMMEDIATELY FROM THE LIST OF CANDIDATES. THEY SHOULD NOT RPT NOT GIVE ANY REASON TO JUSTIFY THEIR CANDIDACY AS LACKEYS OF THE U.S.-THIEU-KY CLIQUE. GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL, INCLUDING CHIEFS OF CITY WARDS AND SECTORS, CIVIL SERVANTS, POLICEMEN, AND PERSONNEL OF OTHER AGENCIES MUST STOP IMMEDIATELY ALL ACTIVITIES ADVERTISING THE ELECTION AND SHOULD NOT RPT NOT COERCE THE MASSES TO VOTE. THOSE WHO DELIBERATELY ASSIST THE U.S.-THIEU-KY CLIQUE BY RUNNING FOR THE ELECTION, CAMPAIGNING FOR THE ELECTION, AND COERCING THE MASSES TO GO VOTE WILL DO SO AT RISK OF THEIR LIVES."

4. SPECIFIC EXAMPLES. FOLLOWING ARE SAMPLING OF REPORTS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES ON VIET CONG ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE

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ALREADY COME TO LIGHT THROUGHOUT THE REPUBLIC. SOURCES ARE GENERALLY CONSIDERED RELIABLE, AND REPORTS ARE CONSONANT WITH OTHER INTELLIGENCE ON VC PLANS.

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A. I CORPS. AS HAS ALREADY BEEN REPORTED IN PRESS, AN AUGUST 18 PRE-ELECTION CARNIVAL SPONSORED BY GVN IN HUE WAS DISRUPTED BY VC-SET MINE, KILLING AT LEAST 26 PEOPLE AND WOUNDING MANY MORE. CARNIVAL WAS DIRECTLY BUT SECONDARILY CONNECTED WITH ELECTION. IT WAS UNDERSTOOD TO BE PRIMARILY MORALE-BUILDING EVENT FOR PEOPLE OF HUE TO DEMONSTRATE FRIENDLY GVN INTEREST AND SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE OF CITY FOLLOWING PERIOD OF "STRUGGLE" WHICH LARGELY ISOLATED THEM FROM REMAINDER OF THE REPUBLIC. ONE OF MAIN THEMES, IN ADDITION TO GVN INTEREST IN POPULAR WELFARE, WAS IMPORTANCE OF ELECTIONS AND OF EACH CITIZEN'S VOTE.

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B. II CORPS. IN BINH THUAN PROVINCE ON COAST OF CENTRAL VIET-NAM, AS EARLY AS JUNE 15, VC PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OPENED SHORT POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION COURSE IN METHODS OF RESISTING U.S. AND GVN, AND IN DISRUPTING ELECTIONS. AFTER ATTENDING COURSE, CADRE WERE TO RETURN TO THEIR POSTS AND OPEN TEN-DAY COURSES IN VC-CONTROLLED VILLAGES. IN ONE SUCH COURSE, PEOPLE WERE INSTRUCTED TO:

1) OBTAIN GVN VOTER CARDS AND SEND THEM TO VC COMMITTEES ORGANIZED TO RECEIVE THEM, EXAMINE THEM, AND PROVIDE COUNTERFEIT MARKED CRADS (INDICATING THAT THE HOLDER HAS VOTED) WITHOUT VOTING.

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2) OBTAIN COMPLETE LISTS OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS IN DISTRICT.

3) PROVIDE FALSE BALLOTS FOR THOSE "FORCED" TO GO TO THE POLLS.

4) INSTRUCT VOTERS IN TECHNIQUES OF INVALIDATING BALLOTS.

IN ADDITION CADRE IN THIS DISTRICT ARE INSTRUCTED TO SUPPORT PLAN WITH HARASSING FIRE OR ATTACKS ON THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY, ON PAIN OF INDEFINITE ASSIGNMENT TO CIVILIAN LABOR CORPS.

C. III CORPS.

1) LONG AN - VC ORDERED HARASS PEOPLE BEFORE ELECTIONS. THEY ARE TO GATHER PEOPLE FOR PROPAGANDA, PREVENT FREE TRAVEL TO TOWNS AND CITIES AND GVN OFFICES. GUERRILLA GROUPS ARE TO CONCENTRATE NEAR POLLING AREAS TO CAUSE CONFUSION.

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2) VILLAGES IN BINH TUY PROVINCE WERE ENTERED BY VC AND PEOPLE TOLD THEY WOULD BE MURDERED IF THEY VOTED IN THE ELECTIONS.

3) 9 AUG - VC ENTERED A HAMLET IN LONG KHANH, PROPAGANDIZED

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AGAINST ELECTIONS, AND TOLD PEOPLE THEY WILL SHOOT AND THROW GRENADES INTO VOTING BOOTHS USED IN COMING ELECTIONS.

4) IN LINH DONG VILLAGE OF GIA DINH PROVINCE (LESS THAN TEN MILES FROM SAIGON) VIET CONG CADRE WENT TO EVERY HOUSE ON AUGUST 7 WARNING VILLAGERS NOT TO VOTE AT RISK OF THEIR LIVES. THEY STATED THEIR INTENTION TO LAUNCH RAIDS AND TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE DAY BEFORE ELECTIONS. IF FORCED TO VOTE, VILLAGERS SHOULD INVALIDATE THEIR BALLOTS.

D. IV CORPS.

1) SLOGANS USED BY VC IN IV CTZ: "TO VOTE IS TO MAINTAIN WAR"; "THOSE WHO VOTE ARE COUNTRY SELLERS"; TO BOYCOTT THE CONGRESS IS TO SAVE YOURSELF AND COUNTRY"; "THOSE WHO DON'T VOTE ARE PATRIOTS".

2) IN CHAU DOC PROVINCE IN THE MEKONG DELTA, SEVERAL RESIDENTS ON OUTSKIRTS OF PROVINCE CAPITAL WERE VISITED BY THREE-MAN VC TEAM DEMANDING TO SEE THEIR VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS. ACCORDING TO RESIDENTS, VC PROPOSED TO DESTROY CARDS AND

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DENY THEM RIGHT TO VOTE. ALL RESPONDED THAT THEY HAD NOT YET RECEIVED THEIR CARDS, AND THE VC TEAM LEFT.

3) IN KIEN HOA PROVINCE, ALSO IN THE DELTA, POLICE LOCATED AND DESTROYED ON AUGUST 16 VC UNIT PLANNING TO SABOTAGE ELECTIONS IN PROVINCE TOWN, SEIZING RIFLES, MINES, DOCUMENTS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT.

4) IN HAU NGHIA PROVINCE SITUATED BETWEEN SAIGON AND CAMBODIAN BORDER, VC CADRE ASSEMBLED RESIDENTS OF TWO VILLAGES IN DUC HUE DISTRICT. IN ONE, VILLAGERS WERE INFORMED ON AUGUST 11 THAT THEIR VOTING CARDS WOULD BE SEIZED SO THEY WOULD BE UNABLE TO VOTE. IN THE OTHER, ON AUGUST 12 ALL RESIDENTS WHO VOTED WERE THREATENED WITH DECAPITATION.

5) KIEN PHONG - A VC DISTRICT COMMISSAR IS CONDUCTING PROPAGANDA CLASSES ON THE GENEVA ACCORDS OF 1954, IN AN ATTEMPT TO AGITATE

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AGAINST US BOMBING OF HANOI AND HAIPHONG, AND TURN PEOPLE AGAINST COMING 11 SEPTEMBER ELECTIONS. CLASSES STARTED 1 AUGUST.VC WILL ALSO COLLECT ID AND VOTING CARDS SO PEOPLE CANNOT VOTE.

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6) BA XUYEN - VC DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD MEETING AND PLANNED FOLLOWING BEFORE ELECTION: MILITARY WILL SUMMON GUERRILLA FORCES TO HARASS POSTS, CUT ROADS, AND SET MINES DURING THE ELECTIONS.

7) CHUONG THIEN - 12 AUGUST - AT PRESENT TIME VC IN DISTRICTS ARE PROMOTING VERY STRONG ANTI-ELECTION CAMPAIGN AMONG PEOPLE. VC ARE ALSO BLOCKADING CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE CAPITAL AND DISTRICTS ECONOMICALLY BY FORBIDDING LOCAL POPULACE TO TRANSPORT FOOD-STUFFS BY WATER.

5. GVN IS FULLY AWARE OF ORGANIZED COMMUNIST EFFORT DISRUPT ELECTIONS AND HAS BEEN MAKING ITS OWN PREPARATIONS TO PROVIDE MAXIMUM SECURITY FOR CANDIDATES AND VOTERS. ARVN AND NATIONAL POLICE ARE DEVELOPING DETAILED PLANS FOR PROTECTIONS OF POLLING PLACES AND HAVE ASSIGNED POLICE BODYGUARDS TO INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATES.

6. THERE ARE WIDE DIVERGENCES OF VIEW AMONG VIETNAMESE AS TO WHAT EFFECT VIET CONG ANTI-ELECTION CAMPAIGN WILL HAVE

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ON TURN-OUT OF VOTERS. EVEN WITHIN OFFICIAL GVN CIRCLES THERE IS NOTHING APPROACHING AGREEMENT AS TO PROBABLE PERCENTAGE OF VOTERS OR HOW MANY WILL BE DETERRED FROM VOTING BY VIET CONG TERROR OR BUDDHIST INSTITUTE PERSUASION. MISSION HAS NOT BEEN USING ANY SPECIFIC ESTIMATE OF VOTER PARTICIPATION IN CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESS HERE, BUT INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS HAVE BEEN TRYING CONVEY IMPRESSION THAT FIGURE WHICH APPROACHED ONE HALF OF REGISTERED VOTERS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED SOLID ACHIEVEMENT.

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